

Python

Candidates for this exam should be able to recognize and write syntactically correct well-documented Python 3 code that will logically solve a given problem, correctly use data types supported by Python, and use common libraries to write a program that solves a complex problem.

Candidates are expected to have had at least 150 hours of instruction and/or hands-on experience with the Python programming language, be familiar with its features and capabilities, and understand how to write, debug, and maintain well-formed, well-documented Python code.

To be successful on the test, the candidate is also expected to have the following prerequisite knowledge and skills:

- 8th grade reading skills
- Basic computer skills
- Algebra I

1. Operations using Data Types and Operators

- 1.1 Evaluate expressions to identify the data types Python assigns to variables
 - str, int, float, and bool
- 1.2 Perform and analyze data and data type operations
 - Data type conversion, indexing, slicing, construct data structures, lists, list operations (including sorting, merging, appending, inserting, removing, finding maximum and minimum, and reversing)
- 1.3 Determine the sequence of execution based on operator precedence
 - Assignment (`=`, `+=`, `-=`, `/=`, `%=`, `//=`, `**=`), comparison (`==`, `>=`, `<=`, `!=`), logical (and, or, not), logical, arithmetic (`+`, `-`, `/`, `//`, `%`, `**`, unary `+` and `-`), identity (`is`), containment (`in`)
- 1.4 Select operators to achieve the intended results
 - Assignment (`=`, `+=`, `-=`, `/=`, `%=`, `//=`, `**=`), comparison (`==`, `>=`, `<=`, `!=`), logical (and, or, not), logical, arithmetic (`+`, `-`, `/`, `//`, `%`, `**`, unary `+` and `-`), identity (`is`), containment (`in`)

2. Flow Control with Decisions and Loops

- 2.1 Construct and analyze code segments that use branching statements
 - if, elif, else, nested and compound conditional expressions
- 2.2 Construct and analyze code segments that perform iteration
 - while, for, break, continue, pass, nested loops, loops that include compound conditional expressions

3. Input and Output Operations

- 3.1 Construct and analyze code segments that perform file input and output operations
 - open, close, read, write, append, check existence, delete, with statement



IT SPECIALIST EXAM OBJECTIVES

- 3.2 Construct and analyze code segments that perform console input and output operations
 - Read input from console, print formatted text (string.format() method, f-String method), use command-line arguments

4. Code Documentation and Structure

- 4.1 Document code segments
 - Use indentation, white space, comments, and docstrings; generate documentation by using pydoc
- 4.2 Construct and analyze code segments that include function definitions
 - Call signatures, default values, return, def, pass

5. Troubleshooting and Error Handling

- 5.1 Analyze, detect, and fix code segments that have errors
 - Syntax errors, logic errors, runtime errors
- 5.2 Analyze and construct code segments that handle exceptions
 - try, except, else, finally, raise
- 5.3 Perform unit testing
 - unittest, functions, methods, and assert methods (assertIsInstance, assertEquals, assertTrue, assertIs, assertIn)

6. Operations using Modules and Tools

- 6.1 Perform basic file system and command-line operations by using built-in modules
 - io, os, os.path, sys (importing modules, using modules to open, read, and check existence of files, command-line arguments)
- 6.2 Solve complex computing problems by using built-in modules
 - Math (fabs, ceil, floor, trunc, fmod, frexp, nan, isnan, sqrt, isqrt, pow, pi) datetime (now, strptime, weekday), random (randrange, randint, random, shuffle, choice, sample)